

APPLICANT(S): NITZAN Boaz et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/045,150
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 have been rejected. Claims 12 - 29 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 2 has been amended. This amendment is editorial in nature and does not narrow the scope of the claim.

Remarks to the Specification

The "Cross-reference" paragraph has been added to identify the application as claiming benefit of US provisional application No. 60/261,267 as indicated on the filing receipt.

The specification has been amended to correctly identify Laid-Open Japanese Patent Applications Nos. 05-202328 and 07-157668.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1,2,4-8,10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), as being anticipated by Hwang et al (US 4,070,322).

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1- 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), as being anticipated by Song (US 4,892,775).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the remarks that follow.

As is well established, in order to successfully assert a *prima facie* case of anticipation, the Examiner must provide a single prior art document that includes every element and limitation of the claim or claims being rejected.

US 4,070,322 to Hwang et al.

US 4,070,322 to Hwang et al. discloses *a jet printing ink composition formulated of a vehicle having an organic solvent base* (see column 2, lines 4-5).

Claim 1 recites, "*a method of surface treatment*".

The method comprises an operation of "*applying a pretreatment liquid comprising a polyvalent metallic salt and at least one of a polymer swelling reagent and a coalescence reagent.....to provide a pretreated recording medium*" and then the operation of "*printing an ink composition onto said pretreated recording medium*".

It is clear from claim 1 and from the specification that the pretreatment liquid cited in claim 1 is not an ink composition. It is the pretreatment liquid that comprises a polyvalent metallic salt, a swelling reagent and a coalescence reagent.

In contrast, Hwang et al. does not teach and the Examiner does not contend that Hwang et al. teach a pretreatment liquid that comprises a polyvalent metallic salt, a swelling reagent and a coalescence reagent.

Therefore, Hwang et al. does not teach, either expressly or inherently, at least the above-quoted limitations of independent claim 1, therefore Hwang et al. cannot anticipate claim 1.

US 4,892,775 to Song

US 4,892,775 to Song discloses *an ink composition*. The ink may optionally contain alkaline earth metal halides. (see column 3, lines 56 -64).

Claim 1 recites, "*a method of surface treatment*".

The method comprises an operation of "*applying a pretreatment liquid comprising a polyvalent metallic salt and at least one of a polymer swelling reagent and a coalescence reagent.....to provide a pretreated recording medium*" and then the operation of "*printing an ink composition onto said pretreated recording medium*".

It is clear from claim 1 and from the specification that the pretreatment liquid cited in claim 1 is not an ink composition. It is the pretreatment liquid that comprises a polyvalent metallic salt, a swelling reagent and a coalescence reagent.

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In contrast, Song does not teach and the Examiner does not contend that Song. teach a pretreatment liquid that comprises a polyvalent metallic salt, a swelling reagent and a coalescence reagent.

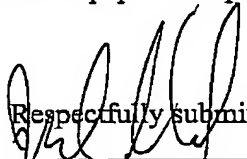
Therefore, Song does not teach, either expressly or inherently, at least the above-quoted limitations of independent claim 1, therefore Song cannot anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2 - 11 are dependent, directly or indirectly from claim 1, and include all the limitations of the independent claim. Therefore Hwang et al. cannot anticipate claims 2 - 11. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-11.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.


Respectfully submitted,

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